

responsive to said step of aggregating, selecting based on at least one criterion a best time to place said group order.

Claim 2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said criterion comprises at least one of a time criterion, a price criterion, a quantity criterion and an urgency criterion.

Claim 3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said order is an order for a bulk good.

Claim 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information comprises information about a remaining quantity of a material.

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*A* Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said order comprises an order in partial satisfaction of said criterion ~~in said information of said at least one publisher~~.

Claim 6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said publishers comprises an automatic monitoring system.

Claim 7. (Original) A computer program product tangibly stored on a computer readable medium and comprising computer program instructions to, when loaded into a computer and executed thereon, perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 8. (Original) A computer system for placing a group order, the computer system comprising:

means for publishing, by a publisher, information about a quantity of a material;

means for subscribing, via a subscriber, to a topic comprising said information;

means for receiving, via a subscriber, said information;

means for aggregating, via a subscriber, said information from at least one of said publishers; and

means for selecting based on at least one criterion, a best time to place said group order.

Claim 9. (Original) A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said criterion comprises at least one of a time criterion, a price criterion, a quantity criterion and an urgency criterion.

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Claim 10. (Original) A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said order is an order for a bulk good.

Claim 11. (Original) A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said information comprises information about a remaining quantity of a material.

Claim 12. (Original) A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said group purchase comprises partial satisfaction of said criterion in said information of said at least one publisher.

Claim 13. (Original) A computer system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of said publishers comprises an automatic monitoring system.

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